

Motorcycle Awareness

SHARE

THE

ROAD



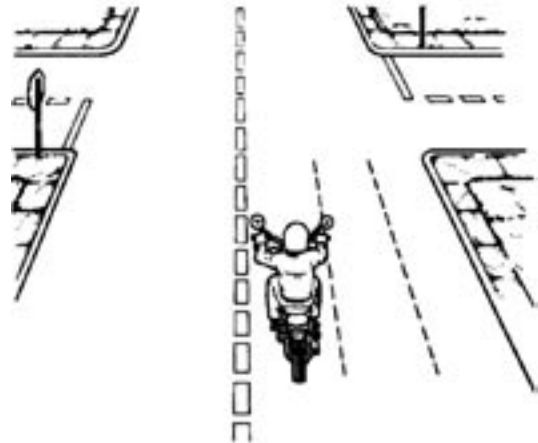
Share the Road

Research shows that three-quarters of crashes involving a motorcycle also involve a motor vehicle. Many times the driver of the motor vehicle is at fault. Considering crash statistics and the increasing number of motorcyclists, the key to a safer traffic mix is learning to share the road.

Many crashes involving motorcycles occur because the driver of the other vehicle simply “did not see the motorcycle.” Because motorcycles are smaller in size than motor vehicles, motorcycles can maneuver in and out of traffic faster. Because of the size and maneuverability of a motorcycle, drivers of motor vehicles often don’t notice them in traffic.

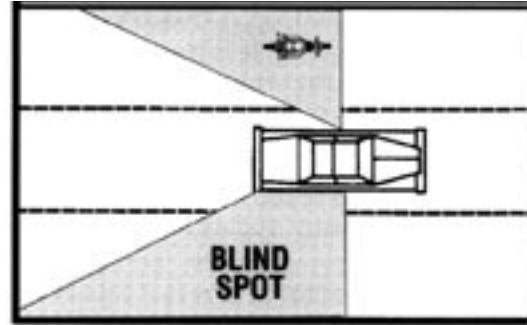
Traffic Lane Area

Traffic conditions and road surface can determine the area within the



Motorcycles are entitled by law to a full traffic lane.

lane that the motorcycle may use. Oil spills, potholes, debris or other places where the road’s smoothness is affected may require the motorcyclist to adjust positions within the traffic lane. Drivers behind motorcycles should be prepared to let them slow down and change lane positions sufficiently for maximum safety.



Look for Motorcycles

It is vital for motorists to condition themselves to look for motorcycles in traffic. Look for motorcycles that are sharing the road. The failure of motorists to see motorcycles in traffic is the most common cause of crashes.

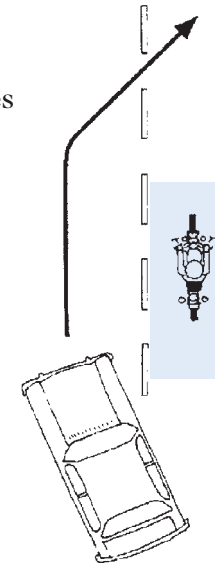


Include motorcycles in your search pattern.

Motorists involved in collisions with motorcycles often do not see the cycle before the collision, or don’t see the cycle until it is too late to avoid the collision. Due to fewer motorcycles on the road during the winter driving months, motorists become unaccustomed to seeing motorcycles in traffic. When warmer months approach, more motorcyclists become a part of traffic. **Include motorcycles in your search pattern.**

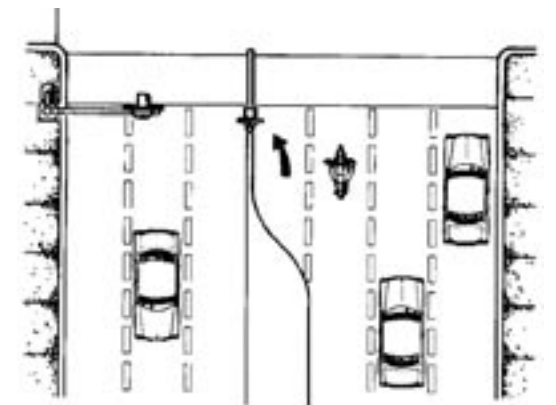
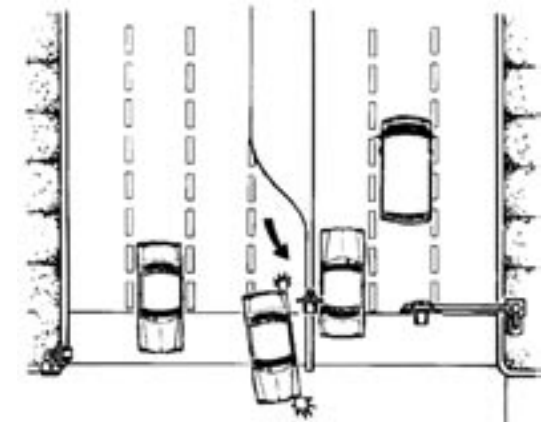
Passing

When passing a motorcycle, give the motorcycle the same lane area that you would give another vehicle. Do not share the lane with the motorcycle when passing. Check your rearview mirror and turn your head to look over your right shoulder. When you see the passed vehicle’s headlights, you may return to the right-hand lane. The motorcycle, due to its size, is sometimes difficult to see. Due to the fact that all vehicles have blind spots to the left and right rear, problems can occur. This is especially true when motorists do not expect motorcycles to appear in the flow of traffic. Motorists should always be on the lookout for the unexpected. Expect to see motorcycles in traffic at any time.



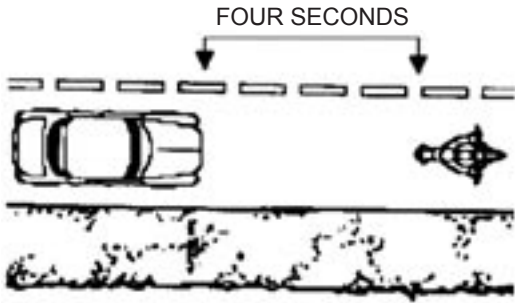
Intersections

Intersections are the most likely and frequent place for a motorcycle crash to occur. The motorist should be prepared to yield the right of way to all oncoming vehicles. Taking a second look specifically for motorcycles will lessen the danger of pulling out in front of them. Because motorcycles are smaller in size, drivers tend to underestimate the speed of the motorcycle. Yield the right of way and always use your turn signals.

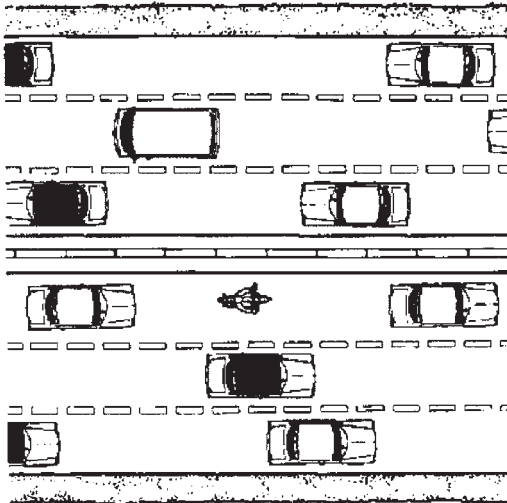


Following Distance

The “four second” following rule is recommended to judge the correct distance when following a motorcycle. Note when a motorcycle passes a stationary object or mark on the highway. If your vehicle passes the



same mark before you have counted “one-thousand one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand four,” you are following too closely for safety. Motorcycles have equal rights; do not tailgate.



Stopping Distance

In most cases, motorcycles can stop in a shorter distance than a vehicle. However, the motorcyclist’s ability to stop quickly may depend on the rider’s experience and training. Will you be able to stop quickly if the motorcycle suddenly must stop?

Drive Aware

Nearly 200,000 motorcycles are registered in Michigan. Motorists must make themselves aware of motorcycles and share the road. Making this a reality requires motorists to actively look for and grant cyclists their space on the highways and requires motorcycles to operate within the rules of the road. Motorcycles have equal rights, so drive aware and make our highways a safe place for all.



Get Licensed

State law requires you to be properly endorsed if you ride a motorcycle on public streets and highways.

For More Information

To locate a rider safety course in your area or for more information about motorcycle safety, visit our website at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

Michigan Department of State
Office of Traffic Safety
Motorcycle Safety and Rider
Education Program
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Motorcycle Safety Foundation
<http://www.msf-usa.org>



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